

**St. Louis Society for the Blind and Visually Impaired**  
**8770 Manchester Rd.**  
**Saint Louis, Missouri 63144-2724**



January 13, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Meredith Baker  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

Dear Chairman Genachowski, Commissioners Baker, Clyburn, Copps and McDowell:

When it was announced that the FCC was considering the adoption of increased “net neutrality” regulations in October, I wrote to express my concern. It is with the same sense of caution that I write you today to reiterate my position on this issue.

The blind and visually impaired population has benefitted greatly from the increased broadband connectivity and innovation over the past decade. New technologies have made what was once thought impossible reality for many of those in our community. Communication, education and even recreation has become easier to access and all of these contribute to a greater sense of connectivity for the blind and visually impaired. Further, utilization of web-based tools allows organizations such as ours to better serve our clients, given that travel time and costs can be greatly reduced.

Sadly, broadband is not universally available. It is our charge that you make 100% broadband adoption your first priority. Commitment to and investment in this goal is critical for the future development and continued success of the blind and visually impaired population of this country.

I urge you to use caution when considering additional regulation and instead focus on that which will bring the greatest opportunities for success for all Americans.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

David C. Ekin, ACSW, LCSW  
President

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